

4. When have you found yourself out of the boat, sinking, and in desperate need of a hand from Jesus?

5. What are some things you learned about the journey of discipleship from this passage?

6. Jesus' correction of Peter suggests he wants us to grow in faith. How can we cooperate with God's power to grow in our faith?

"Who Do You Say I Am?"

(A Series on Matthew 14-17)

"It's Okay If You Don't Want to Walk on Water"

Matthew 14:22-36

The Confession

This is first and foremost a story about Jesus' _____ and the journey of discipleship

- Jesus' _____.

Job 9: 8 He alone stretches out the heavens
and treads on the waves of the sea.

Who parts the seas because he is more powerful than the seas (Isaiah 46:16; Psalm 77:19)? Who walks on the waves of the sea? There's only one who does that: _____!

This story is about Jesus' identity. He is the _____ of God. He is deity in the flesh.

- The Journey of Discipleship.

We're _____, close-minded, lazy about learning, self-centered, and easily deceived, not to mention our many blind spots. Still, Jesus keeps teaching us and guiding us.

We Want You On That Water. We Need You on That Water.

We _____ Mother Teresa. We needed Rosa Parks. We needed William Wilberforce. We needed Martin Luther. We needed the Apostle Paul. We needed Abraham. Those are just some of the famous ones. Most of the believers who stepped out of the boat and made a huge impact go nameless. They're not famous, but they've walked on the water.

Where is God leading you with your BLESS list this week?



Warning: Missionary biographies are filled with tragic stories of people who walked on water but _____ their families.

Most of life will be lived in the boat, rowing and loving your boat mates and others not yet in the boat in simple, unspectacular, _____ ways.

“The moral of the story is not...that Peter is flawed because he took his eyes off Jesus. The lesson is that Peter’s failure does not matter because Jesus did not take his eyes off Peter.” (Daniel Doriani)

Row, Row, Row Your Boat

Understanding the Bible doesn’t have to be a mystery, but sometimes it leaves us twisted in mental _____

1 Thessalonians 4: ¹¹ ...[we urge you] to make it your ambition to lead a quiet life: You should mind your own business and work with your hands, just as we told you, ¹² so that your daily life may win the respect of outsiders and so that you will not be dependent on anybody.

1 Timothy 2: ¹ I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people— ² for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.

You can stay in the boat and still serve God in important and impactful ways. But your preference for staying in the boat can’t be an _____ for doing nothing. Staying in the boat isn’t about risk-free living. Row, row, row your boat.

Are you willing to get out of the boat if Jesus calls you to take steps of faith you’d never take in your own _____?

Are you willing to get out of the boat and walk on the waves, by faith, toward Jesus, to overcome the routine that are destroying your life and relationships?

Resources:

- Chad Bird, “The Joy of an Unaccomplished Life,” The Gospel Coalition. <https://bit.ly/4bwwVVi>

Personal Reflection & Small Group Questions

Please complete this study on your own, then bring it to your small group for discussion.

1. Looking back over your notes from this week’s sermon, what particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?
2. Read Matthew 14:22-36. Who do you most identify with, the eleven disciples or Peter?
3. Jesus mildly corrects Peter. I think most of us would have only commended him for trying. Why do you think Jesus responds as he does?